

In the Specification:

On page 1, after the title insert the following:

## **RELATED APPLICATION**

This is a U.S. National Phase Application under 35 USC 371 of International Application PCT/EP2004/012238, filed on October 29, 2004.

## **FIELD OF THE INVENTION**

On page 1, before line 5, insert the following heading:

## **BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

On page 1, before line 30, insert the following heading:

## **SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

On page 1, amend the paragraph beginning on line 30 as follows:

~~To this end, there is proposed a rubber tread comprising:~~ One aspect of the present invention comprises

a plurality of elements in relief (ribs and/or blocks) ~~comprising~~ having at least one lateral face and one contact face intended to be in contact along a surface of contact with the roadway during travel of a tire provided with ~~said~~ the tread, the limit of the surface of contact of the contact face with the ground forming at least one ridge.[[,]] A a plurality of cutouts is in the form of grooves and/or incisions, said cutouts being defined by facing lateral faces.[[,]] ~~each~~ Each tread pattern element ~~being~~ is formed mainly with at least one first rubber mix (referred to as "base mix")[[,]] ~~this~~ This tread ~~furthermore being characterised in that,~~ viewed in section in a

plane containing the thickness of this tread, at least one face of height H defining at least one cutout is covered at least in part with a second rubber mix, referred to as "covering mix", ~~this part consisting of~~ This part has covering mix extending over a height Hr at least equal to 30% of the height H of the face, at least one base mix opens on to the contact face when new or at the latest after wear at most equal to 10% of the height Hr. ~~[[,]] said~~ The covering mix ~~comprising~~ includes a butyl rubber, and ~~in that~~ the covering mix comprises as plasticising agent a compound of unsaturated C<sub>12</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty acid ester type.

On page 8, amend the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:

~~The subject of the invention is also~~ Another aspect of the present invention is the use of such a tread for the manufacture of new tires or the retreading of worn tires.

On page 8, amend the paragraph beginning on line 16 as follows:

~~The subject of the invention is also~~ Another aspect of the present invention is these tires themselves when they comprise a tread according to the invention.

On page 8, before line 18, insert the following heading:

## **BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**

On page 8, before line 23, insert the following heading:

## **DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS**